

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • December 2010

Couple to Speak About Afghan Capture and Release

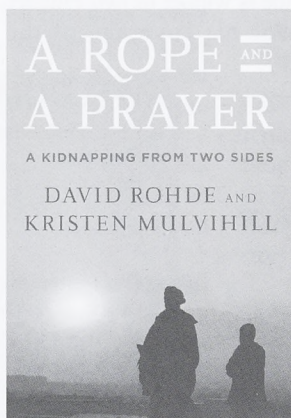
EVENT PREVIEW: JANUARY 11

by Sonya K. Fry

At the OPC Awards Dinner last April David Rohde lit the candle to honor all the journalists killed during the previous year. He had just survived a seven month kidnapping and incarceration by the Taliban. The book, *A Rope and a Prayer*, tells the tale of his escape by climbing over the wall of the compound where he was being held in the North Waziristan region of Pakistan — hence — the rope. Rohde along with a local reporter, Tahir Ludin and their driver Asadullah Mangal were abducted outside Kabul in November 2008. Rohde was traveling to meet a Taliban commander for an interview that he knew was risky, but he thought it important to close his book about the Afghan war with an actual interview with a Taliban leader. Of the ordeal, Harvey Rohde, David's father, said that while he regretted this his son had made the trip, he understood his motivation "to get both sides of the story, to have his book honestly portray not just the one side but the other side as well."

The captured group was taken deep into the tribal areas of neighboring Pakistan and they were kept on the move

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Kristen Mulvihill and David Rohde

Erik Swain

OPC Adds Six Online to Awards Roster

The Overseas Press Club has added six new Online categories for its prestigious Overseas Press Club Awards competition for 2010. In an effort to capture the momentum and excitement generated by the Internet in the reporting and interpretation of international developments, the OPC will award prizes for general excellence, best coverage of breaking news, best use of multimedia, best investigation of an international issue or event, best use of video and best commentary — to be added to the 20 categories that for more than 70 years have recognized the best international coverage in newspapers, magazines, radio, television and books.

"The Internet has become not only a defining feature of the future of global media, it has enabled a whole new universe of reporters, writers and commentators to have a voice," says OPC president David A. Andelman. "It is time that their skills and their ideas be recognized by their peers." The awards, being overseen by OPC Vice President and contest director Arlene Getz, editor in charge, media, of Thomson Reuters,

will be presented at the annual awards gala in the ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in New York on Thursday April 28.

In addition to the new awards, the OPC will also for the first time allow online submission of traditional print, radio and television entries. Beginning on January 1, an awards page at www.opcofamerica.org will allow for submission of entries and payment of entry fees through PayPal. Deadline for submission is January 28.

The following are the categories and a description of each:

■ General excellence online

Best overall international coverage on a web site. Judges will evaluate how the site maximizes the multimedia capabilities of the web to cover key issues, how coverage goes beyond other platforms and brings the story to its readers. Up to 5 main URLs can be submitted.

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Book Night: (Continued From Page 1)

for seven months partly to escape American drone attacks. In the process, Rohde became the first American to see up-close the thriving terrorist mini-state that the Taliban had established inside Pakistan. As their captors trained suicide bombers and plotted attacks, Rohde and his colleagues witnessed how Pakistan's powerful military turns a blind eye to the Taliban activities.

In New York, Rohde's wife, Kristen Mulvihill, together with his family and the

staff of *The New York Times* struggled to navigate a labyrinth of information and mis-information all the while keeping the kidnapping secret for months. Mulvihill's life became agonizing and surreal, as she shuttled between her job as photo director at *Cosmopolitan* magazine — one moment she was supervising a celebrity photo shoot and the next she was meeting with the FBI. She came to realize that no one knew where David was or how to secure his release, hence, the prayer.

David Rohde is winner of two Pulitzer Prizes. One for his coverage of the

Srebrenica massacre — he also won the 1995 OPC Hal Boyle Award for exposing this massacre — and the second Pulitzer was for *The New York Times* 2008 team coverage of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The husband and wife team will speak about their ordeal at an OPC Book Night at Club Quarters, 40 West 45 Street. The reception begins at 6 p.m. and Conversation at 6:30 p.m. Books will be for sale and signing. For reservations call the OPC at 212-626-9220, e-mail sonya@opcofamerica.org or log on to www.opcofamerica.org

Six New Online Awards: (Continued From Page 1)

■ Best online coverage of breaking news

Best online coverage throughout a 72-hour period of a breaking news event. Up to five URLs.

■ Best use of multimedia

Best use of techniques such as interactive graphics, Flash and slideshows to report on international news or developments. Up to five URLs.

■ Best online investigation of an international issue or event

Best original or exclusive reporting for a news web site that provides new insights into an event or trend of international significance. Up to three URLs.

■ Best use of video

Excellence in original video on an international topic created specifically for a news web site. Entries can consist of a single video or up to three from a series.

■ Best online commentary (includes blogs)

Best international affairs commentary or blog. Up to three URLs.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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ProPublica
Active Resident
Reinstated

Gail Edmondson
Editorial Director
Science Business
Brussels, Belgium
Active Overseas
Reinstated

Martin Fackler
Tokyo Bureau Chief
The New York Times
Active Overseas

Todd Gutnick
Director of Media Relations
Anti-Defamation League
Associate Resident

James Kirchick
Writer at Large
Radio Free Europe/Radio
Liberty
Prague, Czech Republic
Active Overseas - Young

Ronald B. Scott
Freelance Journalist
Dover, MA
Active Non-Resident

Ashley Velie
Producer
CBS Evening News
Active Resident

Kejia Wu
School of Management
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Gratitude to Media and People of Poland at Solidarity Reunion

EVENT RECAP: NOVEMBER 9

by Erika Fry

Thirty years ago, Konstanty Gebert was a young Polish journalist and founder of the Flying University, an underground educational network operating in Poland in the years leading up to the emergence of Solidarity.

To an audience of more than 250 assembled on November 9 by the Overseas Press Club and the Polish Consulate in New York to celebrate the 30th anniversary of communist Eastern Europe's first free trade union, Gebert recalled five rules to live by, especially for Polish journalists reporting during that by-gone era: Do not think it. If you must think it, do not say it. If you must say it, do not write it. If you must write it, do not sign it. If you must sign it, do not be surprised.

Those rules suggest the atmosphere of the times during the rise of the Solidarnosc, the Solidarity trade union movement, he said. "We were young in a system hopelessly old, decaying, and determined to remain so," added Gebert.

He was the first of more than two dozen foreign correspondents, producers and news executives who reminisced before a packed room at the Polish Consulate that marked the 30th anniversary of the Solidarity movement. Gebert recalled demonstrating in front of the consulate at 37th Street and Madison Avenue while the secret police photographed the crowd from the very room where he was now speaking freely.

OPC President David A. Andelman presented to Polish Consul General Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka a copy of the script of the CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite of November 26, 1980, a gift of Sandor Polster, the broadcast's foreign news writer at the time. Andelman recalled his own experiences covering for *The New York Times* the first return visit to his homeland of Pope John Paul II and the euphoria of his people that led to the emergence of Solidarity two years later.

Joined by key Solidarity leaders and Polish colleagues, the journalists and guests at the consulate screened televised reports from the coverage of CBS news correspondent Bert Quint, who paid tribute to the heroism of the journalists and their local Polish assistants during the communist era.

The reunion event coincided with an exhibit, "Human Solidarity: Polish Solidarnosc" at the Consulate and brought together the band of international reporters who covered the movement that is now credited with building the momentum that brought down the Berlin wall.

"We tend to look back and think this was inevitable," said Andrew Nagorski, a *Newsweek* correspondent at the time, noting that this conclusion was only reached in retrospect.

"The general sense was you can pull for them, you can pray for them, but it isn't going to happen," said former CBS news anchor Dan Rather, who became teary-eyed remembering the "brilliance and bravery of colleagues" reporting from Poland at the time. "It was a lesson for all who love freedom and democracy that a free and independent press is the beating heart of democracy and freedom. Hearts can inspire other hearts, and the fire of the Polish people inspired America," he added.

Sanford Socolow, Executive Producer of the CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite and Dan Rather and Bill Wheatley, his counterpart at NBC Nightly News, recalled that the Solidarity



Marion Zurawicz

Reception area before speeches. Featured left is the Consul General of Poland in New York, Hon. Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka.

movement captivated the American audience at the time, simplifying their decision to lead the broadcasts on many nights with the ongoing story in Poland.

The mutual admiration and respect between members of the foreign press corps and their Polish sources and colleagues was a common theme.

While Polish speakers praised correspondents for getting their story out to the world, most correspondents praised the "unsung heroes" among the Polish people who provided them, at the risk of their safety, information, pictures, and translations that informed their reporting.

The former *Time* correspondent in Warsaw, Rick Hornik, noted that Poles do not get enough credit for organizing the "quiet educational process that took place after 1976, and after martial law was imposed in 1981." He thanked the underground press, whose popularity, he joked, may suggest a business model the current modern American press should emulate.

"We were just witnesses," said *New York Times* correspondent John Darnton, who was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of Solidarity.

Often, it took great resourcefulness, even courage, to uncover the story, then get their reports out of martial law Poland and into print or on the air. Nagorski recalled a harrowing, Hollywood-style meet-up with a heavily-disguised Solidarity leader in hiding while Marge Lipton, a producer with ABC News at the time, remembered stuffing video tapes into the luggage of Vienna-bound train passengers.

Charlie Gans, a journalist with the AP in Warsaw, recalled the camaraderie and cooperation that developed among foreign correspondents. He recalled, as "there were no telephones, no telexes — the government controlled lines of communication," journalists would pool information to produce a story.

Sincere sentiments were matched with recollections of lighter moments: expediting border crossings by giving away copies of *Playboy* and working with translators who sometimes provided more confusion than clarity. *The Times*'s Darnton chuckled over how, for months, he had believed "there will be cows in the streets" was a common Polish metaphor. In fact, his translator, who often trotted out the phrase at the most tense moments, had actually been saying "there will be chaos in the streets."



Sonya K. Fry

OPC President David A. Andelman, left, and OPC member Dan Rather.

Hetherington and Junger Help Shape “New Journalism”

EVENT RECAP: NOVEMBER 17

by Aimee Vitrak

The OPC discussion was packed on November 17 with people curious about Tim Hetherington's and Sebastian Junger's year long tour with a platoon in the Korengal Valley in Afghanistan. What the audience experienced was not only a peek into the lives and times of soldiers, but also how Hetherington and Junger are reshaping journalism, one camera click, article, website and book at a time.

“What we learned from ‘Restrepo’ is that two independent journalists can work completely outside the network structure and get 150,000 viewers and access to the dialog about the war,” Hetherington said.

“Restrepo” is the full-length documentary Hetherington and Junger shot together during their year with the platoon. It won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance Film Festival in 2010. The day before the OPC Book Night, staff sergeant Sal Giunta of the 173rd Airborne became the first living Medal of Honor recipient since the Vietnam War. Hetherington and Junger put together footage of Giunta and a 14-minute interview and took it to the broadcast networks who offered to take the footage but wanted to install their anchors for the interview so that it would conform to “network style.” Frustrated, the two filmmakers took the video where they already have a reliable audience: the “Restrepo” movie website and the movie's Facebook page where viewers and fans have continued a dialog with the filmmakers and with the soldiers from the featured company.

“Photojournalism is at present a melancholy way of conforming to images we already know, it confirms our beliefs and understanding of the world,” Hetherington said. “We want to bring something new to the table.”

The images that Hetherington captured do show a side of war that is unfamiliar to most civilians: soldiers are laughing, waiting and in some of the most vulnerable images from the book, sleeping. This departure from the stock war images and phrases — war is hell! — is what is unnerving to those who oppose the war and also exciting because of the palpable sense that the viewer has in seeing something that is so distinctly new. Hetherington's images and their work on the documentary challenge the viewer's ideas about war and masculinity. What the public thought about war is upended and what emerges are a group of young men who are dedicated to their mission and to each other.

Their approach to covering war is to capture all facets of the fight. Junger said that even during intense battle, there are times when things are funny. “We want war to be one thing,” Junger said. “But it's so many different things.”

Junger relayed a story where Specialist Kyle Steiner was shot in the helmet. The platoon was in a firefight, he was hit and fell over backward with his face bleeding. “Someone cried out for a medic,” Junger said. “It was absolute chaos. Word went out that Steiner's dead. He was a very popular guy. The medics were sprinting to get to him. Meanwhile, Steiner's not dead. He can't see anything, but all he can hear is gunfire and ‘Steiner's dead.’ He didn't know what to do with it and bolted upright. Then he heard ‘Steiner's alive!’ in the middle of the fire fight and they all



Tim Hetherington, left, and Sebastian Junger discuss their books and joint project, the documentary “Restrepo.”

laughed. He was on a high for a few days after that episode.”

Junger said he experienced a similar high when he was in a Humvee that was attacked. He was “crazy high” the rest of the day and then went into a black hole.

“War can be funny, inspiring, upsetting and sad,” Junger said. “Sad is subtle among all those other more robust emotions. Sadness gets trumped. After twenty years of war reporting, I almost got killed by a guy who doesn't know me and here we are out killing each other. That sadness ended the next time we got shot at.”

On the record, Hetherington is the photographer and Junger is the writer, but in the Korengal, they both swapped mediums and traded when they needed to. “All of these barriers and distinctions are breaking up,” Hetherington said. “But that's the clue to our survival as journalists.”

Video excerpts from this event and other recent OPC events are available at www.youtube.com/opcofamerica

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SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS AND INTERNS:

An op-ed article about an American linked to Al Qaeda and written by **Gregory Johnsen**, was published in *The New York Times* November 21. Johnsen, who is fluent in Arabic and who studied in Yemen as a Fulbright Fellow, won the OPC Foundation's 2006 David Schweisberg scholarship. In his *Times* article, he wrote about Anwar al-Awlaki, 39, who was born in New Mexico of Yemeni parents and has lived in Yemen since 2004. The Obama administration has authorized his killing, a decision now being debated in a federal court. Johnsen wrote, "Mr. Awlaki is hardly significant in terms of American security. Contrary to what the Obama administration would have you believe, he has always been a minor figure in Al Qaeda, and making a big deal of him now is backfiring... The Federal lawsuit...has set off a broader debate over whether the government should be allowed to assassinate an American in a country the United States is not at war with...[Awlaki] is a mid-level religious functionary who happens to have American citizenship and speak English. This makes him a propaganda threat, but not one whose elimination would do anything to limit the reach of the Qaeda branch." Johnsen now is studying for a PhD in Near Eastern studies at Princeton University.

Jane Reilly, executive director of the OPC Foundation, reports: "Our newest group of interns have done exceedingly well. **Caroline Stauffer** has stayed on with Reuters in Mexico City, **Artis Henderson** will continue to work at AP in Dakar and **Jeff Roberts** is working full-time at Reuters in New York. **Leah Finnegan** will intern in the Cairo bureau of the Associated Press, probably in the spring. **James Matthews** will earn his graduate degree in new media at New York University in December and will intern in a Reuters bureau in South America."

Francesca Freeman, winner of this year's Theo Wilson Scholarship, was appointed metals beat reporter at Dow

Jones Newswires in London after working as a Dow Jones intern in San Francisco. In an e-mail to Reilly, she wrote, "Winning the OPC scholarship was a huge turning point for me and I'm convinced that the opportunities it opened up (the story I wrote on sanitation in Ghana for **David Andelman** at the *World Policy Journal*, for instance) have played a key role in my success at Dow Jones."

News organizations select interns from OPC Foundation scholarship winners, and they are assigned to bureaus according to their areas of expertise, experience and language skills.

MURDERS: Mazin al-Baghdadi, an anchor and reporter for al-Mousiliyya TV in Mosul, Iraq was shot and killed November 21 by two gunmen. Dressed as civilians, the assailants arrived at the newsman's home and told his father they were intelligence officers. When al-Baghdadi stepped outside the house to talk to the men, he was fatally shot in front of his family. He was the sixth journalist killed in Iraq this year.

Two journalists were murdered in Brazil in October. **Francisco Gomes de Medeiros**, 48, crime reporter at Radio Caicó in the city of Caicó, was fatally shot five times by a gunman on a motorcycle around 9 p.m. October 18 in front of his house. Police arrested Joao Francisco dos Santos, who according to local media said he killed the broadcaster in reprisal for the reporter's coverage of his 2007 conviction on robbery charges. Gomes has reported on government corruption, crime and drug trafficking. **Wanderley dos Reis**, owner of Journal *Popular News*, a newspaper in Sao Paulo state, was shot after three men burst in his house October 16 and took him and another man hostage. He died in a hospital the next morning. Twenty other reporters have been killed in Brazil since 1992 including at least 16 in retaliation for

their work, the Committee to Protect Journalists reported.

ACAPULCO, Mexico: Unidentified gunmen fired at least 40 shots at the premises of the newspaper *El Star* November 10, stormed into the newsroom and threatened to set it afire. Twelve employees hid under their desks or in the building's backroom during the seven-minute attack, and none of them were injured. The Committee to Protect Journalists said the Mexican press has been under increasing threats this year with 10 journalists killed.

BAKU, Azerbaijan: Blogger **Adnan Hajizada** was released from prison November 18, a year earlier from his 18-month sentence on charges of hooliganism. He was arrested after posting satirical videos critical of the government including one in which he played a donkey holding a news conference. Fellow blogger **Emil Milli**, who was convicted with him, remains in custody with six months remaining in his sentence.

BEIJING: A former Chinese journalist who led a campaign seeking justice for children harmed by tainted dairy products was sentenced November 10 to two and half years in prison on charges of "inciting social disorder." The son of former journalist **Zhao Lianhai** was sickened in 2008 by baby formula laced with the industrial chemical melamine. Zhao was accused of speaking to foreign correspondents about the dairy problem, displaying protest signs and organizing aggrieved parents through a website.

CAIRO: **Abdel Kareem Nabil** was released from prison November 15 after serving a four-year sentence for writings deemed insulting to Islam and for calling President Hosni Mubarak "a symbol of tyranny." Nabil, 26, a critic of conservative Muslims, was the first blogger in Egypt convicted for his writings.

(Continued on Page 6)



Francisco Gomes de Medeiros

(Continued From Page 5)

COMAYAGUA, Honduras: Nancy Hartzenbusch, widow of OPC member and AP foreign executive Henry Hartzenbusch, spent 10 days this autumn on a medical mission to Honduras where she found a leptospirosis epidemic that caused daily deaths and was spread by drinking from unwashed cans that were contaminated by rat feces. Nancy, who was born and grew up in South America, is the Spanish-language interpreter for a U.S. surgical team. The Internet carried a warning to wash all soft drink and other cans before opening because they may have been contaminated with rat wastes during storage. A woman died recently of leptospirosis in Texas after drinking from an unwashed cola can contaminated with rat urine.

GJIROKASTRA, Albania: After parking his car near his home November 14, Piro Nase, reporter for the newspaper *Panorama* and TV Planet was punched in the head by two men who shouted, "Let's see if you will be more careful with what you write in that newspaper after tonight."

HO CHI MINH CITY: Vietnamese bloggers Le Nguyen Huong Tra and Phan Thanh Hai were arrested and detained in October. Le was arrested after she posted a report that claimed the deputy public security minister provided favors to women who had romantic relations with his son. Pham was held on charges of publishing false information.

ISLAMABAD: Two Pakistani reporters said they were harassed after reporting on events critical of the authorities. Hafiz Imran, an Urdu-language TV reporter for Dunya News, said he fled from Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates after he received anonymous death threats over the telephone and more than 10 men, some in police uniforms, visited his house August 29 and threatened his life. Imran has reported extensively on the August 15 killing of two brothers, pressing police and the courts to solve the case.

Umar Cheema, an investigative reporter for a major Pakistani newspaper, *The News*, was abducted and beaten over the weekend of September 4. Most of Pakistan's media community blamed government security agencies on his abduction. Cheema has kept in the public eye,

speaking about the brutal treatment he received from his captors. Bob Dietz, Asia coordinator at the Committee to Project Journalists, said, "It's deeply disturbing to hear that journalists are receiving death threats under Pakistan's new civilian government just as they did under the former military regime."

JAKARTA: His September 20-hour flight from the United States to Indonesia with a stopover in Hong Kong followed by a 12-hour SUV round trip to the mountain resort of Puncak Pass proved too much for Ted Stannard. From long sitting he developed deep vein thrombosis that put him in a Jakarta hospital for nine days. Ted was traveling with his wife Femmy and three of her sisters. It was his first return in 13 years to Jakarta, where he was a UPI correspondent in the early 1960s and where he met Femmy.

KABUL: Joao Silva, 44, a contract photographer working for *The New York Times* was wounded when he stepped on a mine October 23 while on patrol with American soldiers in southern Afghanistan. He suffered leg wounds, and three American soldiers sustained concussions. Silva has photographed wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, southern Africa, the Balkans and the Middle East, and he has won many awards. He is co-author of *The Bang-Bang Club*, a chronicle of four photographers including himself covering violence in South Africa in the 1990s.

LONDON: Neil Collins, a Reuters correspondent, resigned and two others were under internal review after they failed to disclose financial interests in companies they covered, Reuters disclosed in October. Collins bought shares in BP before and after writing about the company. He said in a letter, "I view this as a serious, but technical breach of the rules. At no time do I consider that I have abused my position at Reuters." David Schlesinger, Reuters editor-in-chief and an OPC member, said in a note to the staff, "While we have no evidence the journalist was abusing his position for financial gain, we take such breaches extremely seriously and that journalist resigned with immediate effect during our investigation."

About 4,100 journalists at BBC went

on a 48-hour strike November 5 and 6 to protest planned pension cuts. The strike by about 17 percent of the staff disrupted some global programs. BBC's management is trying to plug a pension funding gap estimated at £1.5 billion (about U.S. \$2.4 billion) without increasing fees for BBC's audience in Britain.

LOS ANGELES: About 40 retired *Time-Life* staffers attended a November 14 lunch in honor of Frank McCulloch, but he was not there. McCulloch, 90, had a heart attack in October and he suffers from macular degeneration. His doctors advised him to remain in the Santa Rosa, California, senior village where he lives. The lunch was held at the West Los Angeles home of Harriet Zeitlin, widow of David Zeitlin, a *Life* magazine writer. Harriet provided mobile phones so her guests could talk with McCulloch, a former *Time-Life* bureau chief in Hong Kong, Saigon, Washington and Los Angeles. The magazines' correspondents at the lunch who worked overseas included Murray and Dodi Fromson, John Flynn, Charles Champlin, Ben Cate and David DeVoss, who left a few hours after the lunch to return to Baghdad where he now is assigned to a company with a USAID contract.

Sam Jameson, a former Tokyo correspondent for two U.S. newspapers who has lived in Japan for the past 50 years, delivered a lecture at a memorial service for Japan scholar Hans H. Baerwald, who died June 2 at age 82. The two men were friends, both dedicated to Japan. Born in Tokyo, Baerwald was a professor emeritus at the University of California Los Angeles, a scholar of Japanese politics and a director of the UCLA Japan Research and Exchange Program. Sam lectured at the October memorial service on the topic "The United States and Japan: Can a Hawk and a Dove Remain Allies?" Jameson arrived in Tokyo in 1960 as a U.S. Army private E-2 assigned to *Stars & Stripes*, the Army's daily newspaper. He studied Japanese at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies 1962 to 1963, was



Sam Jameson describes strains in the US-Japan alliance at UCLA.

Tokyo bureau chief of the *Chicago Tribune* 1963 to 1971, Tokyo bureau chief of the *Los Angeles Times* 1971 to 1996 and now is a freelance journalist in Tokyo and a fellow at the Institute for International Policy Studies at the Yomiuri Research Institute. Sam was president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan 1973 to 1974.

MATAMOROS, Mexico: Carlos Alberto Guajardo Romero, 37, a crime reporter for the local daily *Expreso Matamoros*, was killed November 5 when his pickup truck was caught in crossfire between the Mexican army and gunmen. Guajardo Romero had left home and was driving to cover the shooting that led to the killing of Antonio Ezequiel Cárdenas Guillén, leader of the Gulf drug cartel.

MONROVIA, Liberia: Eleven senior editors and producers from the United States spent 12 days in Liberia in November under the International Reporting Project that is directed by OPC member John Schidlovsky. They studied several Liberian health, economics, development, environment, education, agriculture and media. They were Juhie Bhatia, managing editor, *Women's News*, New York; John Diaz, editorial page editor, *San Francisco Chronicle*; Tiffany Harness, deputy foreign editor, *The Washington Post*; Jordana Hochman, editor, "Morning Edition," National Public Radio; Laura McClure Houghton, new media editor, *Mother Jones* magazine; Denise Johnson, editorial board member, *Star Tribune*, Minneapolis; Sunni Khalid, managing news editor, WYPR-FM, Baltimore; Robert Little, director, investigations, *The Baltimore Sun*; Toni Randolph, editor for new audiences, Minnesota Public Radio; Steven Scher, executive producer, KUOW-FM, Seattle; and Teresa Wiltz, senior editor, The Root.com, Washington D.C.

MOSCOW: The *New York Times*: "Violence against journalists is common in Russia, while convictions are rare in its deeply flawed judicial system."

And the violence continues. Oleg Kashin, 30, a reporter for the daily newspaper *Kommersant*, was attacked by unknown



Oleg Kashin

assailants November 6 and suffered a concussion, broken jaw, fractures in both legs and broken fingers. He regained consciousness six days later. His next-door neighbor wrote on her blog that two men with a bouquet of flowers were waiting for Kashin outside his apartment building the night before the morning attack. He was beaten with a metal club hidden in the flowers. The newspaper's editor said he believed the attack was related to the journalist's assignment covering youth political movements, protest actions against the government and other political events. His newspaper is popular among Moscow's elite, and the attack was the lead story on government-controlled TV channels.

Two days later, Anatoliy Adamchuk, a reporter for the Moscow suburban weekly *Zhukovskiy Vestnik*, suffered a concussion and head injuries when two unidentified individuals attacked him from behind while he was leaving his office, striking him on the back of his head and delivering several more blows when he was down on the ground. He had been reporting on the arrest of children who protested against the cutting down of a forest as part of a road construction.

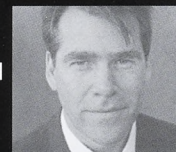
Commenting on the attacks, Larry Martz and Kevin McDermott, co-chairmen of the OPC's Freedom of Press Committee, wrote to Russia's president and prime minister, saying in part, "We...hope that Aleksandr Bastrykin, chairman of the Investigative Committee, will add this to the 19 cases of murdered journalists that he recently agreed to pursue...it will take more than promises to quell the world's outrage at the impunity that has followed the killings of at least 52 journalists in your country since 1992."

Crusading journalist Mikhail Beketov, who was beaten so viciously in front of his home two years ago that a leg and three fingers had to be amputated and he is unable to speak, was convicted on a criminal slander charge November 10. Berketov, editor of *Khimkinskaya Pravda* (Khimki Truth) was found guilty of slandering the mayor of Khimki, a Moscow suburb, by accusing him of involvement in the blowing up of his car before he was beaten. The journalist was fined a nominal amount, which was then suspended. The case against Beketov was widely condemned in Russia, and law enforcement

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB FOUNDATION

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Friday, February 18, 2011

Keynote Speaker
Charles M. Sennott
Executive Editor and
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GlobalPost



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201-493-9087

authorities on November 11 reopened investigation into finding his attackers. Beketov sought to expose government corruption, and he angered local officials by criticizing plans to build a highway from Moscow to St. Petersburg through a forest in Khimki, a project criticized by other journalists.

The Russian-language edition of *Newsweek* was closed in October after losing money ever since its 2004 start. "The reasons are purely economic," editor Mikhail Fishman said. But the U.S. edition of *Newsweek* wrote, "But business in Russia is always at the mercy of politics, and the magazine's intense scrutiny of the wealthy and powerful regularly drew the Kremlin's ire. Back in April the Young Guard – a hard-line group men-



(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued From Page 7)

tored by the Kremlin — posted a video purportedly showing Fishman snorting cocaine in the company of a scantily clad woman.”



Edie Lederer, Dan Rather and Toni Reinhold at the Front Page Awards

NEW YORK: This year's Front Page Awards, presented by the Newswomen's Club of New York, honored several women journalists. **Abigail Pesta**, OPC board member and *Marie Claire's* editor-at-large, was among the honorees for her piece "An American Honor Killing" which provided an in-depth look into honor killings that are often ignored by national media because they are dismissed as a "domestic crime." OPC member **Dan Rather** presented **Edie Lederer**, an OPC member and AP's U.N. bureau chief, with the Lifetime Achievement Award. **Paul Steiger** presented **Gretchen Morgensen** with the Reporter of the Year Award. The dinner was held at the Down Town Club in the Financial District and was hosted by **Toni Reinhold**, president of the Newswomen's Club, an OPC board member and editor in charge of Reuters business desk.

After more than 20 years with the Anti-Defamation League, OPC member **Myrna Shinbaum** retired in October as the organization's director of media relations and public information but will continue as a consultant. She was replaced by **Todd M. Gutnick**, who has worked in the League's media relations department since 1999. In an e-mail to OPC Executive Director **Sonya Fry**, Shinbaum wrote, "I am delighted that my longtime colleague Todd Gutnik is succeeding me."

OPC member **Jon Meacham**, 41, who resigned as *Newsweek* editor when

The Daily Beast and Newsweek Announce Merger

Newsweek, a 77-year-old magazine, and *The Daily Beast*, a two-year-old website of news, commentary, culture and entertainment, announced on November 12 that they will merge operations in a joint venture. **Tina Brown**, 57, former editor of the *Tatler* in her native England, *Vanity Fair* and *The New Yorker*, became editor-in-chief of the money and circulation-losing *Newsweek*. She is a founding partner of *The Daily Beast* and continues as its editor-in-chief.

Brown said, "I see *Newsweek* and *The Beast* as a marriage between *Newsweek's* journalistic depth and the vibrant versatility *The Daily Beast* has realized on the web. The metabolism of *The Daily Beast* will help power the resurgence of *Newsweek* and amplify the range of talent and audience *The Daily Beast* can reach. The two entities together offer writers, photographers and marketers a powerful dual platform."

When the merger was announced, she told the *Newsweek* staff as quoted in a full-page spread, "This is just the dream, really. To have a magazine that is of such quality. Of such legend. Of such relevance in today's spinning vortex of a world that can actually bring sense, bring meaning, bring connection to all the splintered fragments that assail us every day and every minute."

Sidney Harnan, 92, a millionaire manufacturer of audio equipment, bought *Newsweek* from the Washington Post Company this summer for \$1 and assumption of the magazine's debts. He will be executive chairman of the joint venture.

Barry Diller, 68, chairman of the company that owns *The Daily Beast*, said, "I am really excited we were able to (finally) put this together. In *The Daily Beast*, Tina and her truly great team have in Internet-time created an hourly, daily news magazine and now will have the ability to revive the weekly venerable *Newsweek* with all the tools and sensibility they've perfected in *The Beast*."



Tina Brown, outside Tatler in Covent Garden, London, in 1981.

the magazine's ownership changed, will become an executive vice president and executive editor of Random House in January. He will acquire and edit nonfiction books, concentrating on history, religion and biography, subjects he has written about. Random House has published four of Meacham's books including *American Lion*, a biography of Andrew Jackson that won a 2009 Pulitzer Prize.

In one of *Newsweek's* first executive changes under its new ownership, **Rhonda Murphy** became the magazine's global publisher. Since 2008, she had been publisher and managing director of *Newsweek International*.

When **Juan Williams**, 56, was fired by National Public Radio after saying on Fox News that he was worried when he

saw people in "Muslim garb" on an airplane, **Brian Stelter** of *The New York Times* wrote, "NPR's decision Wednesday [October 20] to fire Juan Williams and Fox



Juan Williams

News Channel's decision on Thursday to give him a new contract put into sharp relief the two forms of journalism that compete every day for Americans' attention...NPR argued that he had violated the organization's belief in impartiality, a core tenant of modern American journalism. By renewing Mr. Williams' contract, Fox News showed its preference for point-of-view — rather than the view from nowhere — polemics."

RANGOON: **Toru Yamaji**, 49, a correspondent with Japan's video news agency APF, was arrested November 7 while trying to cover Myanmar's first elections in two decades. He was detained

after crossing into Myanmar by boat on a river on the border with Thailand. The Committee to Protect Journalists said at least 12 journalists are behind bars in Myanmar (Burma).

Nyi Nyi Tun, editor of the *Kandarawaddy* news publication was sentenced to 13 years in prison in October on charges of violating government laws. **Shawn Crispin**, senior Southeast Asia representative on the Committee to Protect Journalists, commented, "The bogus charges and harsh sentencing of Nyi Nyi Tun make a mockery of the ruling junta's professed transition towards democracy."

SAN FRANCISCO: Vietnam's consul general in San Francisco is the son of the late **Pham Xuan An**, the North Vietnam spy who worked as a reporter for Reuters and *Time* in Saigon during the Vietnam War. When the war ended, An disclosed that he was a colonel in the North Vietnamese Army who secretly delivered military documents and reports to Hanoi from Saigon. His son, **Pham Xuan Hoang An**, earned a law degree at Duke University, where his education was financed in part by his father's friends at *Time*.

SILVER SPRING, Maryland: **Max Desfor** celebrated his 97th birthday November 8 quietly with his companion Shirley. "I tried to keep my birthday quiet," Max, whose wife was killed in a high-way crash several years ago, told this columnist. When he was an AP photographer, Desfor's photo of refugees scrambling over a bombed bridge during the Korean War won a Pulitzer Prize, and his photo of Nehru and Gandhi was reproduced on an Indian postage stamp. Desfor told this columnist that the Indian post office copied the photo without asking for permission from AP or him or paying any royalty. The stamp is still being issued today.



Desfor's photo and the photo on the Indian postage stamp below.



SINGAPORE: British author **Alan Shadrake**, 76, was sentenced November 16 to six weeks in prison on charges of "scandalizing the court" in his book *Once a Jolly Hangman: Singapore Justice in the Dock* that criticized the country's use of capital punishment. He also was fined 20,000 Singapore dollars (U.S.\$15,400) for contempt of court and ordered to pay 55,000 Singapore dollars (U.S.\$42,000) for legal costs. Based in Malaysia, Shadrake was arrested in July when he visited Singapore for a book launch. He was convicted November 3 and is free on bail. In his book, Shadrake wrote that a rich, well-connected drug lord was allowed to leave Singapore although convicted while young and poor drug mules are executed.

In a letter to Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, **Jeremy Main** and **Kevin McDermott**, co-chairs of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, described Shadrake as "an elderly and ailing British journalist" who wrote "things that in a true democracy would be perfectly legal... . Singapore's extraordinary sensitivity to criticism of the government and of your family stands out like a sore thumb in a country that is otherwise sophisticated, affluent and stable."



Kathy, left, and Amy Eldon

WASHINGTON: OPC member **Kathy Eldon** and her daughter **Amy** were in Washington to shoot an interview with Hillary Clinton and Julia Roberts when the Eldons found themselves ushered into the Oval Office along with Roberts and Danny Moder to meet President Obama. Kathy told the President about her work in Creative Visions Foundation, and Obama gave her the names of people who might help. Inspired by the life of **Dan Eldon**, a Reuters photojournalist killed in Somalia in 1993, Creative Visions Foundation supports "Creative Activists" who use media and the arts to create positive change in the world. Kathy is Dan's mother.

Appointed editor of *The Washington Times* in January, former foreign correspondent **Sam Dealey** resigned November 19 following settlement of a dispute between an advisor to the **Rev. Sun Myung Moon**, founder of the paper, and Moon's son in a power struggle within the Moon family. Dealey was a former Africa correspondent for *Time*, CNN and PBS, and editor of the culture and thought page of the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, and he held editorial posts at the *American Spectator*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *Reader's Digest*.

WEST BANK: Blogger **Walid Husayin**, 26, was arrested by Palestinian authorities in November on charges of heresy for posting satires on the Koran in English and Arabic blogs. If convicted, Husayin, a barber and an atheist, could face life in prison

WEDDINGS

David Gelles, 31, a San Francisco-based correspondent for *The Financial Times* of London, and **Alison Boyd**, 30, associate director of Renaissance Weekend, a Charleston, South Carolina organization that holds political and business retreats, were married on November 13 at the San Francisco University Club by a Presbyterian pastor and a Buddhist practitioner. Gelles covers technology and media. The couple met at a Renaissance Weekend in Santa Barbara, California in 2006.



Spencer Mandell, 34, international syndication editor at Polaris Images, a photography agency in New York, and **Courtney Gadsden**, 31, casting manager for the fashion company J. Crew Group, were married in Newport, Rhode Island November 6 by the bride's mother, the Rev. Carol D. Gadsden, an Episcopal priest. Mandell's documentary "God's Open Hand" about Afghanistan's first presidential election, won awards at the 2006 International Independent Film and Video Festivals in Los Angeles and New York.

(Continued on Page 10)

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◆
Dianna Douglas, a producer for National Public Radio in Washington, was NPR's Baghdad bureau chief from September 2006 to February 2007, and she reported from Afghanistan last summer. **David Burk** is working on a Ph.D. in economics at the University of Chicago. Diana, 33, and David, 28, were married October 23 at the Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Kensington, Maryland. A Jewish ceremony was performed at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland.



◆
Maria Eugenia Alcón, 36, a producer at NBC Nightly News who shared in an Emmy award for the 2009 report "Unlikely Refugees" about Afghan women, and **Edward Héreaux**, 38, an independent technical consultant on corporate communications systems, were married also on October 23 at Sky restaurant in New York City by a Universal Life minister.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Alfred Balk, 80, an OPC member since 1976 and founding editor in 1974 of the World Press Review, died November 25 of colon cancer at this home in Huntley, Illinois. Balk wrote for *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Harper's*, *The New York Times Magazine* and other publications; edited the *Saturday Review* and *The Columbia Journalism Review*; and taught at Columbia and Syracuse Universities. He started freelancing for magazines while stationed with the U.S. Army in Japan after World War II and then joined the *Chicago Sun-Times*. He was elected president of the Society of Magazine Writers in 1969. In a landmark court case, Balk refused to disclose the source of his published report on segregated housing, and a U.S. Federal



District Court and the Supreme Court ruled in his favor. **Phyllis Balk**, his wife of 58 years, said at one point he read six newspapers a day and four books a week.

◆
"He was one of the last dinosaurs of Fleet Street, where many a younger journalist would sneak closer to him in the King and Keys pub to eavesdrop on his stories from faraway places – the Congo, Oman, Persia." That was how one reporter-colleague described **John Bulloch**, who died November 18 in Oxford, England at age 82 after a long career as a foreign correspondent in the Middle East. Born in South Wales, Bulloch was an amateur boxer in the late 1940s before he became a reporter at age 23 on the *Western Mail*, a Cardiff newspaper, at £8 a week. He worked for the Press Association news agency and BBC before joining *The Daily Telegraph*, in 1958. He remained at *The Telegraph* for 28 years, reporting from the Middle East and serving as diplomatic editor. From *The Telegraph*, he joined the fledgling *Independent* as its Middle East editor. He wrote more than a dozen books, notably on Iraq, Lebanon, the Gulf and Kurdistan.

◆
Elizabeth (Peggy) Loeb, 84, wife of **Marshall Loeb**, OPC president 2006 to 2008, died October 27 in Scarsdale, New York, where they lived. Peggy and Marshall, then a United Press correspondent, met in post-WWII Frankfurt, Germany, and they were married in Frankfurt City Hall in August 1954.



Born in Bad Kissingen, Germany when Nazi power was growing, Peggy spent much of her school years in Vevey, Switzerland, and later studied at Charles University in Prague. Towards the end of WWII, she nursed German soldiers, then fled Czechoslovakia to avoid the advancing Russian army. Walking for three months at night and often hiding in foxholes to avoid rapacious soldiers, she made her way to the Bavarian town of Freising, where an uncle was a city elder. When the U.S. Army arrived, Peggy, who spoke perfect English, was persuaded by

her uncle to leave the town. After the war, Peggy's command of English landed her a secretarial position with the British Consul General in Frankfurt, and later as a stewardess with Pan American Airlines.

Peggy was described in her death notice as a gourmet cook, animal lover and jewelry designer extraordinaire who impressed friends with her incisive take on events of the day, her candid appraisal of people, her sage advice, puckish humor and cultivated tastes. She devoted herself to her family and to guiding the career of her husband, who became managing editor of *Money* and *Fortune* magazines, a radio and television commentator and author of more than a dozen books. In Peggy's memory, her family suggests donations to the Humane Society of New York (212) 752-4842.

◆
Frank Bourgholtzer, 90, a former NBC News foreign correspondent and the network's first full-time White House correspondent, died October 8 in his Santa Monica, California home. He began his 40-year career with NBC News in 1946. He was assigned to Europe in 1953 and served as bureau chief in Paris, Bonn, Vienna and Moscow, reporting from both East and West Europe during the height of the Cold War. When he was White House correspondent, the three networks produced the first TV tour of the White House during which Bourgholtzer persuaded President Truman to play an impromptu piano recital in the East Room.

◆
The autumn issue of *PRESSnews*, the journal of the London Press Club, reported the deaths of several British newsmen including: **Basil Davidson**, 96, a former Paris correspondent for *The Times* of London and later a correspondent for the *New Statesman* in Africa, died July 9. **Alan Ruddock**, 50, who died May 30, was editor of *The Scotsman* from 1998 to 2000 after working for *Today* in Dublin, the *Irish Independent*, the Irish edition of *The Sunday Times*, *The Sunday Express* and *Sporting Life*. **Robert Hargreaves**, 67, who reported from Washington, D.C. for ITN News in the 1960s, died February 27.

Rosenblum Provides Journalists With Reporting Basics and Insights

EVENT RECAP: NOVEMBER 3

by William J. Holstein

Once upon a time, in lands far, far away, American journalists actually lived in the countries they covered and understood local politics and culture. But in view of the massive retreat by many news organizations from covering the world, too many journalists these days (those who still have jobs) sit in the home office and merely comment on Twitter and on television about bits of wire service copy or video clips they receive from abroad. They may not really know anything about the realities on the ground, but that doesn't stop them from commenting. In the view of Mort Rosenblum, many American journalists have become "churnalists," who merely "whip up froth from others' work."

It's a devastating critique and Rosenblum made it to an OPC book night on November 3 in New York marking the publication of his latest book, "Little Bunch of Madmen: Elements of Global Reporting." The term "little bunch of madmen" refers to the small cluster of correspondents who insist on entering scenes of disaster or conflict when everyone else is fleeing.

Rosenblum, who is based in Paris and has been covering the world for 40 years, has self-published this book, which is aimed at equipping young journalists with the passion and knowledge to cover the world's most important stories because their elders have been fired or simply disappeared. "It's unbelievable who is *not* out there," he said.

The goal for American journalists, he said, should be to be on the scene "before the story starts" so that they can speak the language and understand a bit of the history and culture, thereby enabling them to place an event in the proper context. Too many journalists these days parachute into a story from London or New York and portray themselves as instant experts, which they cannot possibly be, Rosenblum argues.

Or else they resort to opinion polls from readers to generate more web traffic. "Germany Invades Poland," Rosenblum wisecracked. "What's your opinion?"

Under gentle questioning from old time friend, Victor Navasky, who was editor or editorial director of *The Nation* magazine for 27 years and now teaches at

Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism, Rosenblum said there was an enormous difference between a journalist who has on-the-ground knowledge versus a journalist who goes onto Google and does a search for background information. "It's time that people understand the difference," he said. He said some words and images reaching Americans are merely "masquerading" as news.

In the old days, Rosenblum recalls, correspondents on the ground sent in their dispatches to headquarters in "cable-ese," meaning short, clipped words and phrases meant to save money on telex charges. Editors, who acted as "gatekeepers," sifted through their dispatches and decided what stories were important for Americans and how to improve upon the copy and check accuracy. Most of those safeguards are gone now and an image or a soundbite can flash around the world in seconds, often distorting a story entirely. "If you can get it wrong at the speed of light, I sort of like the old way," he quipped.



Mort Rosenblum with students and instructor from the International Reporting Program at CUNY.

Rosenblum, who also holds a teaching position at the University of Arizona in Tucson, said the profession of covering the world has only four or five more years to teach the next generation of correspondents how to cover stories in the most authentic ways, or else the skills sets that Rosenblum and others have displayed over the decades could be lost entirely. "You have to see. You have to judge," he advised. "And tell the story with as much balance as you can. I'm seeing less and less of that."

The net effect of poor quality journalism is pretty clear in Rosenblum's mind. "A misinformed America is making fresh enemies and losing old friends," he says.

The book can be purchased on www.bunchofmadmen.com and Amazon.

New Books: (Continued From Page 12)

growing country in Europe, with the typical Irishman enjoying a higher standard of living than the average Brit. Just a few years after celebrating their newly won status among the world's richest societies, the Irish are now saddled with a wounded, shrinking economy, soaring unemployment, and ruined public finances. After so many centuries of impoverishment, how did the Irish finally get rich, and how did they then fritter away so much so quickly?" The book, *When the Luck of the Irish Ran Out: The World's Most Resilient Country and Its Struggle to Rise Again* [New York: Palgrave MacMillan] was written by **David J. Lynch**, who covers global business for *USA Today*.

— by Al Kaff



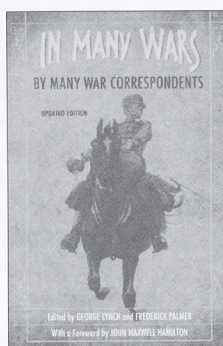
Helicopter Charters
from East 34th St
Heliport to:

LGA	5 mins
Newark	5 mins
JFK	7 mins
Hamptons	45 mins

New Books

GLOBAL

MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO, a group of war correspondents wrote essays about their most exciting experiences. A collection of their essays was published in 1904 in Tokyo in a limited edition edited by **George Lynch** of the *London Daily Chronicle* and **Frederick Palmer** of *Collier's* magazine. An updated edition came out this year. *In Many Wars*, by *Many War Correspondents* [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press] includes chapters written by such famous correspondents as **Jack London** and **Richard Harding Davis**. The forward describes the book's origin: "Early in 1904, Lynch and a distinguished throng of foreign correspondents with high hopes of a good story assembled in Tokyo to cover the Russo-Japanese War, only to determine that the authorities were determined not to let then 'close to the hot interesting things.' Corralled in



the Imperial Hotel, the journalists had nothing much to do except tell stories in the bar and scrounge for something to write about. They called themselves 'Cherry Blossom Correspondents.' In an effort that combined socializing and make-do writing, Lynch and Fredrick Palmer of *Collier's* proposed that they and a few of their colleagues join in writing short autobiographic essays about some exciting event in their careers." The forward was written by OPC member and Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost at the Manship School of Communication at Louisiana State University **John Maxwell Hamilton**.

U.S. AND IRELAND

"IN A WAY, I THINK OF IT AS AN OPC-related book." That's what **Kelly Smith Tunney** wrote in an e-mail about *The Prizefighter and the Playwright: Gene Tunney and Bernard Shaw* (Toronto: Firefly Books) written by her husband **Jay R. Tunney**. Kelly is a member of the OPC, and the late Gene Tunney, the world heavyweight boxing champion 1926 to 1928, was an OPC member. The boxer and the Irish playwright met in London in 1928 when Tunney was hanging out with F. Scott Fitzgerald, Thornton Wilder and Ernest Hemingway. Tunney was a high school dropout, but he spent hours reading



classic literature, and he memorized all of Hamlet. Shaw, 41 years older than Tunney, followed professional boxing, and he recognized Tunney as a smart, scientific fighter. The two men forged an enduring friendship, talking about literature, music and art. "He was the teacher, I was the pupil," the boxer said.

Jay Tunney, who wrote the book, is the boxer's son. Jay has spent more than 40 years as an international businessman including 25 years in Asia from where he wrote articles for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and other publications. Kelly Tunney, Jay's wife, was an AP correspondent in the Vietnam War and elsewhere in Asia and then AP vice president and director of corporate communications in New York City. In an e-mail to this columnist, Kelly wrote, "The book grew out of a highly-acclaimed BBC radio program Jay co-wrote and presented in 2000 to 2001. Jay spoke on his father and Shaw in speeches in Japan, England, Canada, Ireland and other places." In promoting his book, Jay has traveled to Ireland, Canada and across the United States from Maine to California.

I N A BOOK ABOUT IRELAND, Politico's Bookshop wrote on the Internet: "Few countries have been as dramatically transformed in recent years as Ireland. Once a culturally repressed land shadowed by terrorism and on the brink economic collapse, Ireland finally emerged in the late 1990s as the fastest-

(Continued on Page 11)

Coming Up. . .

OPC Holiday Party

Tuesday, January 4

Club Quarters 25 West 51st Street
6 to 9 p.m., details page 4

**Book Night: David Rohde
and Kristen Mulvihill**
A Rope and a Prayer

January 11, Club Quarters, 6 p.m.

OPC Awards Deadline
January 28

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA